

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete paragraph [00080] on page 24, lines 4-15, and replace it with the following paragraph:

[00080] The ability to transfer energy from the light harvesting multichromophore system to the signaling chromophore on a sensor PNA was demonstrated using the cationic water soluble conjugated polymer poly((9,9-bis(6'-N,N,N-trimethylammonium)-hexyl)-fluorene phenylene), polymer 1 with iodide counteranions prepared as described,²³ and the sensor peptide nucleic acid PNA-C* having the sequence 5'-CAGTCCAGTGATACG-3' (**SEQ ID NO: 1**) and conjugated to fluorescein (C*) at the 5' position. The respective absorption (green and orange) and emission (blue and red) spectra of polymer 1 and the sensor peptide nucleic acid PNA-C* are shown in Figure 2. Excitation was performed at 380 and 480 nm for 1 and PNA-C*, respectively. The data show that there is an optical window for the specific excitation of polymer 1. Moreover, there is excellent overlap between the emission of polymer 1 and the absorption of C* to allow FRET.³¹

Please delete paragraph [00082] on page 24, lines 18-29, and replace it with the following paragraph:

[00082] The PNA-C* probe ([PNA-C*] = 2.5×10⁻⁸ M) was contacted with an equimolar amount of the complementary 15 base pair ssDNA, (5'-CGTATCACTGGACTG-3') 3 (**SEQ ID NO: 2**), and in an identical fashion with a non-complementary 15 base ssDNA, (5'-ACTGACGATAGACTG-3') 4 (**SEQ ID NO: 3**), in separate vessels in the absence of polymer 1. The annealing step was performed in the absence of buffer, *i.e.* at low ionic strength, at 2°C below the T_m of PNA-C* (72°C at 10⁻⁸ M, pH = 5.5).^{32,33} A melting experiment was performed and the absorbance monitored by UV/Vis spectroscopy at 260 nm.¹⁸ Increasing the temperature led to an increase in absorbance upon melting of the hybridized duplex in the sample containing the complementary ssDNA, as the two single strands absorb more highly than the hybridized duplex. As expected, the sample containing the non-complementary ssDNA did not show such an increase in absorbance, as no duplex was formed in that sample.

Please add the enclosed Sequence Listing to the end of the specification.